

REMARKS

Status of Claims:

Claims 1-47 were originally filed with the patent application. Claims 40-47 were canceled and Claims 48-55 were added in a First Preliminary Amendment dated March 15, 2004. Claims 27, 29, 53, and 55 are being canceled and Claims 56-63 are being added by this Amendment and Response. Therefore, Claims 1-26, 28, 30-39, 48-52, 54, and 56-63 will be pending upon entry of this Amendment and Response.

Drawing Objections:

The Examiner takes the position that Figures 2, 3, 4, 5A, 5B, 6 and 7 are informal. Formal drawings are not required for examination of a pending patent application. The Examiner also indicates that "the noted figures include informal text and/or reference numerals, and are otherwise not particularly drawn." Applicant disagrees. Although Applicant readily admits that various of the drawings that were originally filed with the patent application included hand-drawn reference numerals, all reference numerals are clearly legible and the drawings otherwise comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.84.

Applicant did receive a Notice to File Corrected Application Papers in relation to the original drawings not complying with the margin requirement for drawings. Notably, no other deficiencies were identified in relation to the drawings that were originally submitted. Substitute drawings were filed with the Patent Office on February 8, 2002 having margins that complied with the regulations. All drawings comply with the requirement of 37 C.F.R. §1.84.

In the event that the Examiner maintains the position that formal drawings are required for examination to continue, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner cite the relevant section of 37 CFR.

5 §112 Rejections

Claims 12-14, 27-29, and 53-55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The Examiner takes the position that the "means for generating", "means for concentrating a pressure", and "means for creating a pressure" are not sufficiently described in the specification. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Page 21, line 21 through page 22, line 6, describes how air is pressurized in relation to transducer ABS pad 154. Page 21, lines 11-18 quantify the size of transducer ABS pad 154. Page 23, lines 16-23 describe a rationale for the size of the transducer ABS pad 154. Page 24, lines 1-12 describe the pressures and forces that are experienced by the transducer ABS pad 154. Based upon the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the §112 rejection be withdrawn.

15 Claim Rejections:

All claims stand rejected based upon U.S. Patent No. 6,556,381. The above-captioned patent application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/257,122, that was filed on December 20, 2000. The '381 Patent is not prior art to this priority patent application.

Applicant notes that the '381 Patent is directed to reducing the contact area between a flying-type slider that "crashes" into a disk so as to reduce the vibration amplitude from this contact, and not to providing a small air bearing surface that experiences a high pressure and that yet makes a substantial contribution to the total uplift forces that are exerted on the slider body when the slider is used in the disk drive. Column 9, lines 10-13 of the '381 Patent indicate that "the area of the first

surface constituting element 5a "is very small so that it does not significantly affect the floating force of the magnetic head slider."

Conclusion:

5 Based upon the foregoing, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such a disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

10 Respectfully submitted,

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